

predetermined amount **greater than** an amount of movement necessary for tentatively retaining at least one of said parts to said other part" (see Applicants' independent claim 4).

This is one of the factors which allows Applicants' claimed invention to overcome the drawback of prior art methods where holders tentatively retained onto the housing become dislocated from the housing in conjunction with the return operation of the movable molds.

Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, Endo does not disclose, teach or suggest such a feature.

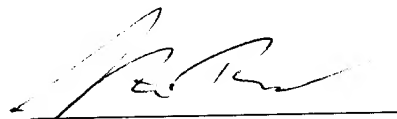
Endo discloses a method wherein "rear holder 3 is provisionally retained (that is, preset) on housing 2, as shown in FIG. 3" (see Endo, col. 7, lines 13-32). In particular, as shown in Endo's Figs. 1 and 2, rear holder 3 is urged in the direction of arrow D by upper mold 34 until retaining portions 26, which are formed on arms 23a and 23b of rear holder 3, slide over the respective retaining projections 16 of housing 2, and are retainingly engaged therewith. This is **the exact** amount of movement necessary for retaining rear holder 3 on housing 2. Thus, in contradistinction to Applicants' claimed method, Endo's rear holder 3 is not moved by an amount **greater than** amount of movement necessary for tentatively retaining holder 3 on housing 2. Accordingly, not only does Endo fail to teach or suggest the method as claimed in Applicants' claim 4, but, indeed, teaches away from such a method.

Therefore, Applicants' independent claim 4, as well as its dependent claims 5 and 6 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their base claim) would not have been obvious from Endo at least for the reasons noted above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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